

UNAPPROVED

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Costa at 7:38 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood.

Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Alex Prignano, Business Manager.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 6-0. (Mr. Pearson was not yet at the meeting).

Agenda Item #4: Recognition of Achievements

Dr. Morelle recognized 2010 Scholar Leader Winners from the middle schools and also students in the 2010 R.I. Stock Market Game Ceremony.

Agenda Item #5: Employee Retirement Recognition

Mr. Costa acknowledged all of the loyal employees that are retiring at the end of 09-10 school year. Dr. Morelle read several names from the list of retirees and gave certificates to those in attendance and thanked each and every one of them for their loyalty and hard work over the years.

Agenda Item #6: Student Government Report

Sophia Dias noted that during Staff Week there was a barbeque and gifts were given out to members of the staff. During Senior Week, there were various activities that took place at lunch every day. The senior reception was held last Friday night. On 6/14 student government will be electing officers for next year; also on the 14th is the senior breakfast and graduation. On 6/18, 6/21 and 6/22 there will be exams for underclassman and 6/23 will be the last day of school.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

No report at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report on Teaching and Learning

No report at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public

There were several comments from the audience involving the Senior Prom and the drinking incident that took place at the prom. Several parents and students voiced their opinions about how they felt the situation was handled by administration and how they thought it should have been handled. Several parents also thought that the rules in place need to be reviewed and perhaps changed for future events and classes. Mr. Pedro is the chairperson for the committee regarding these rules and the committee will be reviewing the rules and regulations that are currently in place to see if things could/should be changed for the future.

Jack M. was concerned about middle school sports and how the town cannot fund them and how self funding is a possibility. His concern is that if self funding is going to happen and going to work, that something needs to be done about it now – such as lining up volunteers, programs, etc. He would like to meet with the committee to discuss getting this off the ground. Mrs. Beaulieu stated that over the next couple of weeks the committee will be addressing this issue and she thought maybe a schedule with some meeting dates would be appropriate to get together with parents, coaches, volunteers etc.

Agenda Item #10: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Kelly stated that the finance committee met earlier in the evening and they had one payment registered for \$554,992.00, moved by a vote of 2-0 to bring it to the full committee. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the payment in the amount of \$554,992.00, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item #11: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or vote to approve contract for District Support Technician – tabled this item.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Mutter stated that he was uncomfortable about some of the public comments, he did not know a lot of the details. He then asked Mr. Rotella to explain the process of what happens when the children break the rules of the school either at the school or at school activities. Mr. Rotella explained the different levels that the incident moves through, various individuals, committee, Department of Education, hearings, appeals, etc. Parents were still not happy at this time and again a few came to the podium to voice their opinion and ask more questions. This time the concern was mainly due to the fact that the school was going to be opened on Saturday morning for the suspended students to take their final exams.

Agenda Item #12: New Business

A. Presentation on the 2009-2010 “Centers for Student Success” at Ashton and B.F. Norton Elementary Schools – Deb Rude gave a slide show of how ARRA funds were used on an after school program for math and reading. The program targeted grades 2-5 and the program was to improve students’ literacy and math. Deb explained several slides regarding selection process, the actual program, tutor selection, debriefing process, starting percentages for students and

then ending percentages for these same students. Showed how the growth was incredible and then played a video of three children that gained a considerable amount from this program. Deb also discussed the required resources for the program to work – time, talent, after school bus, snacks, materials – from Dunn Institute, Dunn support, to name a few. Mrs. Karbonik and Mrs. Maloney also got up and spoke about the program and how this program was such a success and how the children were very enthusiastic about the program and also how it changed their behavior. They both stressed how important it is for Cumberland to continue using programs like this one. Mrs. Maloney also thanked Dr. Morelle for “pushing them” into using this program – she was very happy for Dr. Morelle’s advice.

B. Discussion and/or vote on Amended School Board Meeting Policy – Mr. Costa had put this on the agenda back in April and the Rules and Reg’s sub committee approved it. All meetings will be regular, no more special, and all meetings will be posted on Secretary of State’s website. The calendar will be changed so that all the special meetings listed will now be regular meetings – the dates will remain the same, just a change from special to regular. Mr. Pearson made a motion to accept changes as amended to the calendar, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Pedro, approve 7-0. Dr. Morelle will post the updated calendar – all dated as listed, just change whatever is a special meeting to a regular meeting.

C. Discussion and/or vote on Resolution on Contract Continuation – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the resolution created to show that it is not in the best interest of schools supporting contract continuation was

brought to the finance committee earlier this evening and one small change was made to it – the third Whereas where it is written “current FY 2010”, the word “state” was added to it just to clarify that this is in reference to the states budget not the towns budget. This was supported on a 2-0 vote in finance. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to move this resolution as amended, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 7-0. Mr. Rotella stated that now a copy of the approved resolution gets sent to the town council, state senators, state representatives and the governor’s office, so that they will have it on hand when dealing with the Cumberland School Department.

D. Discussion and/or vote on Resolution on Binding Arbitration – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that finance met earlier and reviewed the resolution and made one minor change, in the 4th Whereas, “current FY 2010” the word “state” was added. Mrs. Beaulieu then made a motion to move passage as amended, 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 7-0.

E. Pursuant to the R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 Exception (9) Grievances: no action taken, Mr. Rotella requested that this be placed on the next agenda.

F. Recalls – none.

Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle requested the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Martha Heroux, English Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 6/30/2010 and Dr. Morelle requested the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Shirley Gagnon, Teacher Assistant at Cumberland High

School, effective 6/30/2010. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve and 2nd by Mr. Pearson, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item #14: Comments from the Public

Again several parents and several students got up to voice their concerns. The majority felt the students involved in the drinking incident at the prom should have received stiffer penalties for their consequences, such as not being allowed to participate in the graduation exercises. They thought the five day suspension that the students received was just not enough. One student said he did not want Cumberland to be like Barrington.

Mr. Pedro noted that he will review the policies in place – five day suspension.

Mr. McLoughlin brought the good news that the “Fair Funding Formula” came out of the house tonight and he wanted to thank representatives, senators, etc. that helped make it happen.

Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pearson stated that he had received word that the Senate also passed the Education bill along with the House. He also wanted to thank the senators and representatives that help make it happen.

Mr. Wood wanted to thank Mr. Tenazio and his 4th and 5th grade students for doing such a great job on the play “Annie” and he also wanted to thank the students that came out tonight, wished them well

and said he is sure they will do great things in the future.

Mr. Mutter stated that we need a policy in place because he feels that there is a difference between plays, SATS and the situation with the suspended students and letting them take their final exams on Saturday and opening up the school to them. He said we need to set precedence for the future.

Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 – motion made by Mr. Pearson to go into Executive Session, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approve 7-0.

Agenda Item #17: Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony